

Before I conclude my remarks, I would like to thank the Consul General of Egypt in New York, Soheir Zaki, for hosting a reception for His Holiness today.

On behalf of my colleagues, I welcome Pope Shenouda III on his visit to this country, and hope that his stay is a pleasant and fruitful one.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SETTLEMENT PLAN FOR WESTERN SAHARA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I believe the 1997 Houston Accord, negotiated under the leadership of U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan by his Personal Envoy, former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, offers the best hope for achieving a just and lasting solution to the question of the Western Sahara. However, I am concerned that the parties to the plan—the Government of Morocco and the Polisario Front—are not doing enough to meet their commitments under this agreement. A lack of cooperation by the parties is impeding the progress of the U.N. Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). On August 7, 1998 I wrote to President Clinton concerning MINURSO and implementation of the Houston Accords, and on August 31, 1998 I received a reply. The text of the correspondence follows:

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, August 7, 1998.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT CLINTON: I write to urge you to support actively the full implementation of the United Nations Settlement Plan for Western Sahara. I commend the commitment by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to resolving this decades-long conflict as well as the extraordinary leadership and accomplishments of his Personal Envoy, former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, in successfully negotiating the 1997 Houston Accord. I believe this agreement offers the best hope for achieving a just and lasting solution to the question of the Western Sahara.

The parties to the plan—the Government of Morocco and the Polisario Front—are not doing enough to meet their commitments under this agreement. Implementation of the first phase of the Houston Accord is already some six months behind schedule, with further delays likely. I believe the United States has an important interest in the full and timely implementation of both the Houston Accord and the underlying UN Settlement Plan.

I would like to bring to your attention three areas where a lack of cooperation is impeding the progress of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

First, the two parties, as well as Algeria and Mauritania, have not concluded a status-of-forces agreement (SOFA) to facilitate the deployment of MINURSO-formed military units—including some U.S. forces. To ensure the orderly, peaceful conduct of the referendum, those forces are set to be increased as the Houston Accord enters its second phase.

I do not see how the United Nations can deploy this force without a clear, prior agreement from all parties on the conditions under which they would operate.

Second, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) does not yet have an agreement with the Government of Morocco to formalize its presence in the Western Sahara, as is required by the Houston Accord. Without an agreement allowing it to operate freely, the UNHCR has made no progress on organizing the safe and voluntary repatriation of the Western Saharan refugees from camps in Algeria and Mauritania.

Third, the Government of Morocco has imposed restrictions on MINURSO aircraft. I am concerned about attempts to dictate to the United Nations who it may and may not transport on its own planes, and urge you to encourage the Moroccan government to refrain from such interference with MINURSO's work.

I believe U.S. support is critical to the successful implementation of this peace plan. The United States should have its own officials on the ground to report on MINURSO's progress, should press the parties directly to carry out their commitments to the peace plan, and should give strong support to the efforts of former Secretary Baker. I understand that Secretary Baker, acting on behalf of the UN Secretary General, may reconvene the Houston conference that produced this agreement, and I hope you will support his diplomacy in full.

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, August 31, 1998.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEE: I received your letter concerning the Western Sahara, and I agree with your views on the importance of full implementation of the United Nations settlement plan. I also share your concern over the slow pace of progress.

United States officials at the United Nations and in the region constantly monitor developments affecting the U.N. Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). As you are aware, the United Nations is working with Morocco, Algeria, and Mauritania to conclude a status of forces agreement (SOFA). We recognize the importance of having a SOFA in place and will continue to urge progress.

Regarding the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), I am encouraged by the recent agreement between Moroccan and UNHCR delegations in Geneva to allow UNHCR to operate freely. UNHCR is awaiting confirmation from the Government of Morocco before proceeding, but anticipates a favorable decision.

We continually discourage Government of Morocco restrictions concerning who may and may not travel on MINURSO aircraft. As the recent presence of congressional staff on MINURSO flights demonstrates, Moroccan restrictions have not affected our ability to support the U.N. process. That said, we continue to urge the Government of Morocco to lift these restrictions, which cause Morocco to be viewed in an unfavorable light by the international community.

The U.S. embassy closely follows the settlement process in the Western Sahara through visits to Western Sahara proper and to refugee camps in Tindouf. We have also placed a U.S. official, on a short-term basis, in Western Sahara to observe and report on developments. The United States will continue to take every opportunity to urge the Government of Morocco and the Polisario to

work with the United Nations in resolving this longstanding dispute.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns on this important issue. I appreciate the active interest and positive involvement of Congress in supporting the U.N. peace process and the full implementation of the Houston Accords.

Sincerely,

Bill.

AN "OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY"

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great township of Cranberry, Pennsylvania for being honored by the Pennsylvania Commerce of Business and Industry as "Outstanding Community" 1998. The award was presented on September 14, 1998, in Hershey, PA.

Founded in 1804, Cranberry has grown into a thriving township that offers a prosperous job market and a high quality of life for its citizens. Since 1990 alone it has gained more than 1,180,000 square feet of new commercial construction. Their economy is a model for the modern economy based in retail trade and the service industry. For these reasons the Pennsylvania Commerce of Business and Industry chose to honor them this year.

This is a great accomplishment for Cranberry Township as they are the first township of this size to receive the award. They provide an example for other small communities in this country on how to succeed and compete economically.

CELEBRATING KIDS DAY AMERICA

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the annual Kids Day America, a nationwide event that educates children about the importance of good health. Taking places at thousands of doctors' offices, Kids Day America offers health screening, educational program, fingerprinting and identification photos, among other services. This event is intended to protect the health and safety of our children—our most precious treasures.

In my Congressional District, Kids Day America was held Saturday, September 19, at the Rochelle Family Chiropractic Center in Rochelle Park, headed by Dr. David Hager. The funds raised this year will go to the Conklin Youth Center's Caring and Sharing Project in Hackensack. This important program provides care for abused children who have been removed from their parents' homes.

Free scoliosis screening and dental screening was offered to children who attended Saturday's event. In addition, the Rochelle Park Police Department fingerprinted and photographed children for identification purposes. Police officers also explained the DARE anti-drug program. McGruff the Crime Dog, Joey the Clown and free balloons helped make the event fun and entertaining for children.

Promotion of DARE—Drug Abuse Resistance Education—is one of the two most important components of Kids Day America. Before DARE was established in 1983, U.S. schools had virtually no formal program to teach children about the dangers of illegal drugs and provide them with the skills to resist drugs. The DARE program is a 17-week-long course taught from elementary to high school levels by specially trained police officers across the country. The program now reaches an estimated 26 million children in 75 percent of our nation's schools.

The other key component of Kids Day America is health care for children. This program recognizes that it is essential that our children receive the highest quality of health care and that is a goal to which I am unequivocally committed. I have strongly supported programs to make health insurance more widely available to children of the working poor—those whose parents fall in the vast chasm between Medicaid eligibility and the ability to afford private health insurance. The health of our nation's children is far too valuable to allow it to be threatened by the lack of adequate insurance coverage. The impact of poor health care is far greater for children than it is for adults: stunted growth, lifetime disabilities and even early death can result from failure to properly treat childhood disease. To allow innocent children to suffer when proper care is available is unconscionable.

Mr. Speaker, health and safety are key factors in the development of our children into active, productive adult citizens. If started in childhood, proper health and safety habits can be maintained for a lifetime. This event helps promote those values.

I ask my House Colleagues to join me in congratulating the sponsors of this event on their spirit of caring for our young people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, September 18, 1998, I was absent from the House due to a serious illness in my immediate family. As a result, I missed three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "No" on rollcall vote number 450; "no" on rollcall vote number 451; and "aye" on rollcall vote number 452.

IN HONOR OF EDUARDO L. DURAN

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional gentleman, Mr. Eduardo L. Duran, for his many years of honorable service to the community.

Mr. Eduardo L. Duran arrived in America 38 years ago in search of his long lost love and now wife Xiomara. Over the years, Mr. and

Mrs. Duran experienced economic and social struggles as they raised their four children. Their struggles were due to the inability of speaking English and leaving a successful business behind in their native land. Mr. Duran, after several business ventures, was fortunate and successful enough to have his wife dedicate herself to raising their children, Alexander, Diane, Eduardo II, and Claudia Tatiana. After establishing his businesses, Mr. Duran became involved in his community. He is a member of the Hispanic Mercantile Federation, active partner of the Cuban American Foundation, member of the Lions Club, and founding member of the Latin American Kiwanis Club of West New York.

Mr. Duran along with Jose Alvarado, Jorge Quintana, and Joseph Menendez helped found and charter the Latin American Kiwanis Club of West New York in February 15, 1995. Today, as one of the five Board of Trustee members, he holds the title of the second vice-president. The other trustees are his son Alexander, President; Robert Arreaga, first vice-president; Maria E. Smith, Secretary, and Maria Elena Pacheco, Treasurer. In my regards, Mr. Duran should be honored and recognized for his unique contributions to the community.

It is an honor to have an outstanding gentleman such as Mr. Eduardo L. Duran residing in my home state serving the residents of my district. I ask that my colleagues rise with me and applaud this remarkable example of community service at its best.

IN MEMORY OF REV. DONALD SELMER LINTVET

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, recently, my hometown of Lexington, MO, lost one of its most beloved citizens. Rev. Donald Selmer Lintvet, 77, passed away at his home on August 13, 1998.

Rev. Don Lintvet was born in Hawley, MN, on March 4, 1921. He attended school there, and after graduating from Lake Park High School, he received degrees from the Industrial College of Minnesota and the Detroit Lakes Business College. In addition, he attended both Baylor University and Rockhurst College for several years, as well as Trinity Theological Seminary, San Francisco Seminary, and Toledo Bible College.

Don's studies were interrupted by his service to the United States in the U.S. Army. Immediately before World II, Don served as a finance officer in Panama at the Panama Canal Zone. During World War II, he served state-side in the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Benning, GA, the Paratrooper Division at Indianapolis, IN, and at Fort Hood, TX.

After the conclusion of the war, Don came to Lexington, MO, the hometown of his wife, George Lynn. In Lexington, he once again served in military uniform, as Assistant Commandant at Wentworth Military Academy. Soon thereafter, he was recalled to active duty by the Army during the Korean War.

For years, Don worked in the credit and banking industry. He worked at the Bureau of Internal Revenue and at Riss and Company in Kansas City. He was also employed for twenty years as a Retail Credit Manager at Western Auto in Kansas City. While working at Western Auto, Don was appointed Vice President of the International Consumers Credit Executive Association.

Don joined the Bank of Tulsa in 1968, and also served as Vice President of the Bank Americard (now known as VISA) Center for several years. In 1972, he instituted the Bank of Americard facility in St. Louis and oversaw the development of the facility. Later, Don joined the Noland Road Bank of Independence, MO, and became an executive member of the Board of Advisors to the Bank of America in San Francisco, CA.

Don Lintvet ended his active business career in 1979 due to health problems, however, his professional life took a turn which led him to the Christian Church. On October 10, 1980, Don was ordained as a minister in the Disciples of Christ church, and he served as a minister at churches in Lexington, Dover, Bates City, and Hardin. His most admired contribution to the ministry was as a volunteer chaplain at the Lafayette Regional Health Center. From 1980 to 1990, Don served more than 11,000 hours of volunteer service at the hospital.

Early in his life, Don played baseball for the minor league Fargo-Morehead Twins at Fargo, ND, and the major league Cleveland Indians, and of his many affiliations, Don enjoyed being on the committee of the Board of Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in Kansas City. He was also a music enthusiast and he was an active member of the Tulsa Opera Company and the Christian Church choir in Tulsa, OK. He was a 58-year member of the Masonic Lodge AM FM #149, a member of the Lexington American Legion/Thomas Cullom Post, and a member of the Masons in Balboa Canal Zone. In addition, Don was one of ten Missourians nominated for the Outstanding Senior Volunteer for the state of Missouri.

Don is survived by his wife, George Lynn, one son, one sister, two grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, one niece, two nephews, two great-nieces, and one great-nephew.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Donald Lintvet was a man of honor and dignity. His service to his nation, to his community, and to his God are highly commendable. He is truly a role model for all Americans. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to this honorable Missourian.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 450, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 451, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 452, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present I would have voted "no."